

## ***Philip S. Thomas***

Philip S. Thomas has worked in arts and culture for his entire professional career. He has worked exclusively in the field of producing, presenting, and touring the live performing arts. In addition, Philip has had a parallel focus on the training of young people in the performing arts disciplines of music, dance, drama, and musical theater.

As a result of his expertise and dedication, Mr. Thomas is recognized as a leader in the development and implementation of performing arts presentations, high quality theatrical events and community-based arts education programming by the New Jersey and national arts community, state and local government, and in the private sector.

Philip S. Thomas was the Executive Director of Newark Symphony Hall (May 2007-December 2011). Mr. Thomas joined the staff of Newark Symphony Hall and was responsible for launching a revitalization effort to return the complex to its former role as a major venue for hosting and presenting a full range of music, dance and theater performances. Newark Symphony Hall consists of the Sarah Vaughan Concert Hall (2,800 seats), Terrace Ballroom (1,000 seats), the Newark Stage (220 seats), and the Studio Theater (75 seats). Mr. Thomas provided oversight for the governance, human resource, finance, marketing, development, rental, programming, and capital operations of the venue.

Philip S. Thomas was the Vice President of Arts Education at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) until March 2005. NJPAC is the 6<sup>th</sup> largest performing arts center in the United States and consists of Prudential Hall (2,800 seats), the Victoria Theater (514 seats), the Chase Room (300 seats), and the Lucent Technologies Center for Arts Education - Black Box Theater (110 seats). Mr. Thomas joined NJPAC in 1992 as the Founding Director for Arts Education and was responsible for developing a comprehensive Arts Education Department for NJPAC that includes a \$3.5 million annual budget and 18 full-time staff members. Mr. Thomas also served on the team responsible for the \$4.5 million renovation of the Lucent Technologies Center for Arts Education (a 29,000 sq. ft. arts education facility.)

In 1985, Mr. Thomas was Founder and Artistic Director of the Carter G. Woodson Foundation (CGWF), a multi-disciplinary arts organization located in Newark, New Jersey. The primary objective of CGWF was to increase performance opportunities, and earned income for African American theater, dance, music and literary artists by providing performance opportunities and marketing support. During his seven years of leadership, he administered Black Culture on Tour in America, which was a national touring program, OnStage in New Jersey which was a statewide performing arts series, and coordinated arts education programs in New Jersey local school districts.

In 1984, Mr. Thomas joined the Newark Board of Education as a grants analyst in the Division of Grants Development. His responsibilities included: researching government, foundation and corporate grant resources and priorities; writing grant proposals and applications; and, managing approved grant awards and preparing final narrative and budget reports.

Mr. Thomas joined the staff of Newark Symphony Hall in 1982 as Director of Marketing. He held direct supervision over corporate special events, public relations, printed literature, press coverage, advertising and audience research. New projects introduced by Mr. Thomas included: the Friends of Newark Symphony Hall, Performance Time for Young People, annual celebrations in honor of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Black History Month, and the Season Debut press and public relations event to announce the upcoming season of programs.

In 1980, Mr. Thomas was Founder of the Urban Arts Program and the Arts Development Services Programs for the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, which provided management training and skills development opportunities for New Jersey arts organizations and individual artists.



In 1977, Mr. Thomas was Founder of the Greater Paterson Arts Council, a local arts organization in Paterson, New Jersey that presented dance, theater, and music performances and provided technical assistance services to performing and visual artists.

<b>Education:</b>	Winthrop University	M.A. Degree Arts Administration	2017
	Montclair State University	B.A. Degree in Theater	1977
<b>Military Service:</b>	United States Army	Vietnam Veteran	1965-1967
<b>Vietnam Veteran:</b>	Mr. Thomas was the recipient of the Purple Heart and two Bronze Stars.		

### **Professional Employment**

Newark Symphony Hall, Newark	Executive Director	2007-2012
Bergen Performing Arts Center (bergenPAC)	Consultant	2005-2006
New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Newark	Vice President of Arts Education	1992-2005
Carter G. Woodson Foundation, Newark	President / Artistic Director	1985-1992
Newark Public Schools, Newark	Grants Development Specialist	1984-1985
Newark Symphony Hall, Newark	Director of Marketing	1982-1984
New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Trenton	Urban Arts Coordinator	1980-1981
	Arts Development Coordinator	1981-1982
Greater Paterson Arts Council, Paterson	Executive Director	1977-1980

### **Consultant**

Ohio Arts Council	1990-1992
Pennsylvania Council on the Arts	1986-1990
New Jersey State Council on the Arts	1983-1989
National Endowment for the Arts	1977-1987

### **Boards and Service**

Arts and Science Council (ASC) (Member, Investment Committee)	2017-2022
Leadership Newark (Selection Committee)	1998-2009
Education Law Center (Board of Directors)	1999-2008
Montclair State University - College of the Arts (Advisory Board)	1998-2007
New Jersey Black Issues Convention (Chair – Cultural Task Force)	1983-2006
Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation (Education Advisory Board)	1999-2004
New Jersey State Council on the Arts (Commissioner)	1991-1994
Association of Performing Arts Presenters (Board of Directors)	1991-1994
Newark Arts Council (Board President)	1991-1992
Network of Cultural Centers of Color	1989-1992
Newark Boys Chorus School ( Member - Board of Directors)	
Alliance for Arts Education – New Jersey ( Member - Board of Directors)	
New Jersey Institute for School Innovation ( Member - Board of Directors)	

### **Awards and Recognition (Partial Listing)**

Newark Boys Chorus – Parent Advisory Board Award	2005
WISOMMM Arts & Culture Award	2004
Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company	2003
New Jersey Tap Ensemble	2003
Union County Educational Services Foundation	2003
NAACP Gold Life Membership	2003
Organization of African American Administrators	2003
New Jersey State Legislature	2003
City of Newark - Community Service Award	2003
Leadership New Jersey - Arts Leadership Award	2002

Newark School of the Arts – Sweet Arts Award	1999
100 Most Influential in New Jersey	1996
WCBS-TV Fulfilling the Dream Award	1995
Leadership New Jersey (Fellow)	1989
National Endowment for the Arts - Fellowship	1976
Frontiers International	
Friend of Senator Wynona Lipman	
Jersey City Public Library - Community Awareness Series	
Essex County Youth Advocate Program	
Newark-West Ward Cultural Center	

**Producer, Presenter, Program Development and Implementation (Partial Listing 1985 - 2011)**

**Newark Symphony Hall**

Jazz Marathon	2008
Children's Performing Arts Academy	2008-2011
Soul Line Dance Party	2009
Reimagined: Newark Symphony Hall Preservation Conference	2010
Rhoda Scott: Renowned Jazz Organist Concerts	2011

**New Jersey Performing Arts Center**

Verizon Passport to Culture Performance Series	1997-2005
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration	1998-2005
Kwanzaa Festival and Marketplace	1997-2004
Jazz for Teens - Music Education Program	1997-2004
Star-Ledger Scholarship for the Performing Arts	1997-2004
Jeffrey Carollo Music Scholarship Fund	1997-2004
Summer Youth Performance Workshop	1995-2004
Summer Musical Theater Productions	1997-2004
<i>Carousel</i> (1998)	
<i>Oliver</i> (1999)	
<i>Brigadoon</i> (2000)	
<i>Once on this Island</i> (2001)	
<i>South Pacific</i> (2002)	
<i>West Side Story</i> (2003)	
<i>Anything Goes</i> (2004)	
Arts Academy Artists-In-Residency Program	1994-2004
NJPAC Jubilation Choir	1999-2003
NJPAC Jubilation Choir - CD Recording " <i>Spirit</i> "	2002
Youth Orchestra Festival	1998-2002
Arts Basic to the Curriculum Conference	1997-2002

**Carter G. Woodson Foundation**

Black Culture on Tour in America	1985-1992
On Stage in New Jersey - Performance Series	1986-1992
Artists-In-The-Schools Program	1987-1992

**Artists and Companies Presented (Partial Listing 1985 - 2005)**

**Dance (Partial Listing)**

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater  
American Ballet Theater (Studio Company)  
Momix  
New Jersey Ballet  
American Repertory Ballet



Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company  
Philadelphia Dance Company (Philadanco)  
Dayton Contemporary Dance Company  
Cleo Parker Robinson Dance  
Dinizulu African Dancers, Drummers and Singers  
Le Ballet Jazz de Montreal  
Taylor 2 (Paul Taylor Dance Company)  
Muntu African Dance Theater of Chicago  
Carolyn Dorfman Dance Company  
UMOJA Dance Company  
New Jersey Tap Ensemble  
Deeply Rooted dance Company  
Kankouran West African Dance Company  
Harambee Dance Company  
Ko Thi Dance Company  
Kule Mele African Dance and Drum Ensemble

**Literary Arts (Partial Listing)**

Sonia Sanchez  
Nikki Giovanni  
Maya Angelou  
Amiri and Amina Baraka  
Gwendolyn Brooks  
Ruby Dee & Ossie Davis  
Terri McMillan  
Toni Morrison  
Mari Evans  
Haki Madhubuti

**Jazz (Partial Listing)**

Carmen McRae  
James Moody  
Abbey Lincoln  
Kenny Garrett  
McCoy Tyner  
Bobby Hutcherson  
Roy Haynes  
Take 6  
Benny Golson  
Ron Carter

**Gospel (Partial Listing)**

Donnie McClurkin  
Vicki Winans  
Kurt Carr and the Carr Singers  
Darryl Coley  
Shirley Caesar  
Walter Hawkins  
Dorothy Norwood  
Cissy Houston  
Rev. Lawrence C. Roberts  
Sweet Honey in the Rock  
Fisk Jubilee Singers  
Tramaine Hawkins  
Richard Smallwood

## **Artists and Companies Presented (Partial Listing 1985 - 2005)**

### **Latin (Partial Listing)**

Ray Barretto  
Eddie Palmieri  
Hilton Ruiz  
Manny Oquendo  
Herman Olivera  
Yomo Toro  
Los Pleneros de la 21

### **Theater (Partial Listing)**

Arts Power  
Pushcart Players  
Paper Bag Players  
The Acting Company  
National Theatre of the Deaf  
John Amos ("Halley's Comet")  
The Carpetbag Theater  
Theatre Sans Fil  
Mermaid Theater of Nova Scotia  
National Black Touring Circuit  
Aquila Theater Company of London  
George Street Playhouse

### **Keynote Speakers (Partial Listing)**

Dr. Howard Gardner  
Dr. Leon Botstein  
Hon. John Lewis  
Hon. William Gray  
Johnetta Coles  
Rev. Bernice King  
Yolanda King  
Rev. DeForest Soaries  
Dr. Elliot Eisner  
Ossie Davis  
Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi  
Dr. Kenneth Robinson  
Rev. Dr. Calvin O Butts, III  
Gwendolyn E. Boyd  
Molefi Kete Asante  
Jawanza Kunjufu  
Gil Noble

(October 18, 2023)